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The Bloomfield Record.

Devoted to the Interests of Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair, and the various Suburban Districts of Essex County.

VOL. XVII. NO. 32.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1897.

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CAIN.

Extract from a Sermon by Rev. Wm. T. Brown of Madison, Conn.

The significant thing about Cain is not that he was a murderer. That is throwing dust into people's eyes, stuffing cotton into people's ears. Very much of the prevailing enthusiasm for law, liberty and patriotism in this world is the cry of "stop thief!" Much of it is the deliberate diversion of men's scrutiny from the real theft and robbery and murder. To have killed another man does not constitute murder—not even in the eyes of human law. Murder is the blossom, not the root. The poison is in the blossom only because it is in the root. We have seen scores of murders: Murder gleams in the eye of every passionate man or woman or child when the heart is burning with hate. Murder is the name of every blow that hate or envy inspire, whether it be struck with the knife of the assassin or the pen of a slanderer or the superior cunning and capital of the economic pirate, however short of death it may fall. But it is of the poisonous root of all this awful fruit—the Cain-controlling motive of men—that we are to think. What is that motive—that thought of life and of men which makes this story of Cain so sadly authentic—which makes possible the daily records of wrong which we men and women are producing? The whole core of it lies in this answer of his—lies back of that answer. "Am I my brother's keeper?" reveals not only the moving principle of the Cain type of life, but also the one constant denial and defiance of God that has cost and is costing all the pain and suffering of the world. It is because men have repudiated this first law of their life, that Christ could come to this world only upon a cross, and that makes every new incarnation of his spirit—every fresh coming of his life into the life of man—a tragedy. The confession of Cain is the assertion that selfishness is a legitimate principle to control life; that a man has a right to enter into any field of human activity with self-interest in command of his life; that the interests, the well-being, the uplifting of other men is not the fundamental motive of a righteous life; that the service of all is not the only motive by which a man has a right to be controlled. "I am not my brother's keeper. I am not responsible for the happiness and welfare of other men." That is the creed of Cain and his posterity.

It is the reversal of the faith of Jesus that only by losing his life can a man find it—only by making the weal of other men his first concern can any man, ever realize the best and the highest of which he is himself capable. That is precisely what the Cain life means everywhere and always. There is no vindication of it in the Bible, because of the antiquity of the race. There is no palliation here for this withering atheism, this blighting infidelity, this ruthless anarchy, on the ground of primitive ignorance. There was never yet a human being with any consciousness of God who did not know that selfishness is a denial of God and of all goodness and truth. And there is no such thing to-day as this attitude of the first murderer toward men and society? Is there no such thing in these days as a man attempting to press his way through this world which has been made by the blood of the Nazarene and by the blood of an unnumbered host of other men and women a world of redemption—is there no such thing as men crowding their selfish way over the broken lives of weaker men with this God-defying creed? He must be strangely blind who does not see that the struggling madness of this same devil is at the root of all our disorder—is the explanation of all our wretchedness. Stop and think for a moment the scene which this world would present to one who should see it from without the circle of its life. What would he see who should thus look upon our world? What impression would such a spectator of the world-life receive from his vision? What motive would he conclude to be dominant in the scene before him? Would it be the motive of Cain or the motive of Christ? Suppose there were no other way to know what Christianity is, save from the life of the so-called Christian world. Suppose the only record, the only witness, of the ideal of Christianity were that which has found embodiment in the civilization of what we call the Christian nations and in the lives of those whom we call Christian men. What would be the impression of Christianity which would be given to men by what they see? Any man who sees this world as it is at present constituted sees a condition of war. No word describes the existing social and economic order so well as that word. War, conflict, mastery, slavery, suffering, despair, revolt, repulse, hunger, starvation, death. On one side wealth; on the other side poverty.

On the one side affluence and all the opportunities of culture and travel; on the other side want and the doors of opportunity for the higher things of life closed and barred. On the one side the problem what to do with one's possessions, where to find the best security; on the other the problem growing all the while more hopeless of solution of how and where to get enough to maintain mere existence. On the one side a small class living in idleness, engaged in no pursuit which is likely to benefit the world, a class whose sole representative in the body of the common life is the dollar; on the other side another class numbering millions already and all the while increasing also in idleness, enforced idleness, because there is nothing for them to do. Millions of men who are asking for the chance to earn a living are asking in vain! "This is only one side to the picture," you will say. You will insist that there are other sides which are more hopeful. There are other sides that are more hopeful, but those other sides have no claim whatever on your thought or mine so long as there remains this dark and menacing side to the problem. This is the picture which you and I must face. We are cowards and traitors if we are not determined at all hazards to see the worst that is to be seen.

HYMN OF FREEDOM.

God said, I am tired of kings,
I suffer them no more;
Up to my ear the morning brings
The outrage of the poor.
Think ye I made this ball
A field of hay and war,
Where tyrants great and tyrants small
Might harry the weak and poor?
My angel—his name is Freedom—
Choose him to be your king;
He shall cut pathways east and west
And fend you with his wing.
I will divide my goods;
Call in the wretch and slave;
None shall rule but the humble,
And none but toil shall have.
I will have never a noble,
No lineage counted great;
Fishers and choppers and ploughmen
Shall constitute a state.
And ye shall succor men—
'Tis nobleness to serve—
Help them who cannot help again;
Beware from right to swerve.
I break your bonds and masterships,
And I unchain the slave;
Free be his heart and hand henceforth
As wind and wandering wave.
I cause from every creature
His proper good to flow;
As much as he is and doeth
So much he shall bestow.
But, laying hands on another
To coin his labor and sweat,
He goes in pawn to his victim
For eternal years in debt.
To-day unbind the captive,
So only are ye unbound;
Lift up a people from the dust,
Trump up their rescue, sound!
Pay ransom to the owner,
And fill the bag to the brim.
Who is the owner? The slave is owner
And ever was. —Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Montclair and the Trolley.

Montclair now has the distinction of being the only town of any importance within five miles of the corner of Broad and Market Streets, Newark, from which the trolley lines are excluded. Most of the towns and cities within this distance of Newark besides the uniform five cent rate of fare, have the privilege of transfers but the exception to this is Bloomfield, the people of which town are obliged to pay an extra cent in order to transfer on cross lines in Newark. Glen Ridge also pays extra, but the Borough Council put a clause in the franchise, by which, after three years, the Borough receives back \$1,000 per year. Bloomfield gets nothing back.

There is no reason why Bloomfield should not have had as favorable a franchise with the Consolidated Traction Company as Glen Ridge and other towns. Nor is there any good reason why a uniform rate of not more than seven cents from the top of the mountain to any part of Newark with transfers should not be to-day in operation. The people of Montclair want the trolley as much as any other community, and are willing to pay a reasonable fare. The people of Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair, Verona and Caldwell, aside from the travel to Newark, need inter communication by trolley. It is an imposition upon all these townspeople that the Town Council of Montclair, backed by no public sentiment in the town, is able to keep the trolley off of the Avenue, and thereby make it necessary for the antiquated stage to be used wherever a person wishes to enjoy the modern mode of electric travel to or beyond Montclair.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

A regular meeting of the Township Committee was held on Monday night with all members present.

Clerk Johnson presented the following bills which were approved and ordered paid:

Richard Jacobus, extra work on Berkeley Avenue bridge, \$14.10; John N. Delhagen, supplies, \$7.60; A. H. Olmsted, sidewalk construction, \$83.10; A. H. Olmsted, sewer construction, \$900.00; S. Schuerer & Co., supplies poor account, \$115.98; A. L. Taylor, house sewer connections, \$78.71; Frank B. Bailey, Postmaster, supplies, \$46.70; Test of electric light system, \$100; Harris Bros., supplies Police department, \$1.80; M. Hummel & Son, 4 tons coal, poor account, \$22; Engineering Publishing Co., adv., \$22.40.

Mr. Lawrence presented a tabulated report of the sewer bids and stated that P. H. Harrison Sons of Newark were the lowest bidders, and recommended that the contract be awarded to this firm which was adopted. One of the unsuccessful bidders left the room very much dissatisfied and said that this matter had been pre-arranged.

Mr. Fisher said that he had investigated the drainage of Monroe Place and recommended that a 12 inch iron pipe be laid across Spruce Street at Liberty Street. This was agreed to by the Committee. Mr. Fisher also stated that Elias S. Osborne would object to having the dirt on his property when the Beach Street extension is begun, and recommended that the Township build a stone wall to provide for the necessary extension. Bids for the work will be advertised for at once.

Mr. Fisher said that the work on Carteret Street had been stopped by the contractor, owing to the fact that one of the property owners, Mrs. Hampson, had procured an injunction.

Clerk Johnson stated that the awards had all been paid by the late Collector, A. G. Mann, and that the benefits selected the award for damages.

The work will be resumed when Day Street, Brookdale, is completed.

Mr. Fisher also made an investigation into the condition of Washington Place and found it to be all that it was represented to be by the residents. The pile of stone is on the Borough side. The Borough officials will be consulted in this matter.

Mr. Lawrence called the attention of Mr. Fisher to a washout which occurred on Franklin Street at Second River.

Mr. Albion inquired if Mechanic Street had ever been accepted by the Township.

Chairman Stout said that matter had never been acted upon. It was a pet scheme of former Committee-men Powers. The difficulty seems to be with the Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, which was the most formidable obstacle to the opening of this street. The matter was referred to the Legal Committee.

Mr. Lawrence presented a communication from S. Morris Hulin, complaining of the condition of the street and sidewalk on Essex Avenue between Benson and Osborne Streets. The complaint was a just one. This matter was referred to the street and sidewalk Committee with power.

E. A. Rayner appeared before the Committee and requested a deed for the John Hall property on Bloomfield Avenue which was purchased by W. B. Corby, May 16, 1892, comprising one and three quarter acres. He has paid the taxes since that time. This is one of the rare instances when an outside party purchases property at a tax sale. Referred to the Legal Committee. Mr. Rayner, as attorney for the Corby estate at the Centre, was willing to have the property connected with the sewer. This matter was referred to the Sewer Committee.

Mr. Lawrence introduced an ordinance providing for the grading of the sidewalk on the south side of Belleville Avenue, owned by Mrs. James M. Barrett. Referred to Council.

Mr. Haskell informed the Committee of the dangerous condition of the crossing at Broad Street and Franklin Avenue, and a washout which occurred on Franklin Avenue near the Paper Mill house. Referred to the Sidewalk Committee.

Mr. Lawrence stated that Engineer Olmsted had received an estimate from E. W. Sutton for 100 feet of iron fence at the Berkeley Avenue bridge for \$24. Referred to the Road Committee.

Mr. Lawrence desired to know what right Mr. Fred C. Aucutt had up the sidewalk in front of his property at the corner of Orange and Cross Streets. The latter street is in condition and bicycle riders use this sidewalk going to and from the ball game at Watsessing

every Saturday afternoon. This evidently has angered Aucutt and to prevent the cyclists from using the walk he dig trenches and covered them up with boards. When the ball game is scheduled, to take place he takes up the boards. The result is the bicycle riders receive a severe shaking up. Clerk Johnson was instructed to notify Aucutt to discontinue this practice.

Mr. Moore investigated the complaint of residents on Washington Place for more light, and said that he was unable to find this street at night owing to the darkness. He recommended that an incandescent light be placed at Washington Place, also one at the corner of Hickory and Vine Streets, east of the Morris Canal. This was agreed to.

Engineer Olmsted presented a map of the Watsessing Lake property showing the trunk line sewer. Condemnation proceedings will be begun at once.

The final passage of the ordinance relating to awnings took place at this time; also the ordinance relating to house sewer connections.

Engineer Olmsted said that this was the proper time to build two weir chambers for the sewer system, one on Montgomery Avenue and one on Newark Avenue to cost \$135. Each would cost \$100 more if built after the sewer system is completed. Referred to the Sewer Committee.

If the appropriation will permit, cobble gutters will be laid on Watsessing Avenue at the intersection of Grace and Ella Streets.

Mrs. W. J. Madison, a former resident of this town, complained to Chairman Stout that she had failed to receive her tax bill for her property on Linden Avenue, and that the arrears amounted to \$197. He recommended that the interest be placed at 5 per cent, except the last two years. This plan was adopted.

Clerk Johnson read a communication from the Erie Railroad Company acknowledging the receipt of the resolution rescinding the former action of the Committee in regard to the Broad Street bridge.

Mr. Albion inquired if this Company had done anything in regard to a flagman at the Bloomfield Avenue crossing of the Erie Railroad.

Clerk Johnson informed him that he had not heard from them.

Mr. Haskell promised to see the officials in regard to this matter. Another matter brought to the attention of the Committee by Mr. Albion was to have the trolley cars stop at Watsessing Avenue the same as they do at Orange Street to avoid accidents.

At 10:20 P. M. the Committee adjourned.

Another Police Scandal.

A letter has been brought to this office for publication reprehending personally policemen on the force in Bloomfield and attacking the Republican machine and the Township Committee for not "sitting to the bottom the latest police scandal." Two Bloomfield patrolmen are alleged to have interested themselves in the sending of a telegram to a young man, a "fugitive from justice," but located at Keyport, advising him to keep out of the way, because a Bloomfield officer was on the road to arrest him. That is the gist of the letter, which would be published in full but for the fact that its author is unwilling to have his identity known. Beside this, the Overseer of the Poor, who made the complaint and caused the arrest, has effected a settlement of the case out of court. The less, therefore that can be said about it the better. THE RECORD cannot be expected to print anonymous letters, even when offered for the good purpose of improving the administration of affairs in town. The Township Committee, in defense of the Police Department as a whole, should have lost no time in making a thorough investigation of the telegram affair, and then either fully exonerated the Policemen or removed them from the service in disgrace.

Under the Stars and Stripes.

This "murder by government" did not occur in Armenia, nor in Cuba, but in the Christian Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; it put it from the account in the Philadelphia Record of the arraignment of Sheriff Martin and his deputies for murder in the killing of the miners at Latimer.

Rev. R. C. Aust, Chairman of the Hazleton Prosecuting Committee, said: "But the Prosecuting Committee been taken into this case, three of these deputies would not have been admitted to bail, for we would have shown that they deliberately killed three fleeing men after all the other firing had ceased. The Committee would have asked the Court to hold them without bail, but the other cases would probably have been disposed of just as they have been."

The "Symptoms."

Quick-Doctor Thomas B. Reed diagnoses the national disease that everybody wants to catch as follows: "All the symptoms of property are here. Men are willing to lend money and sensible men are willing to take it and risk it in new enterprises."

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